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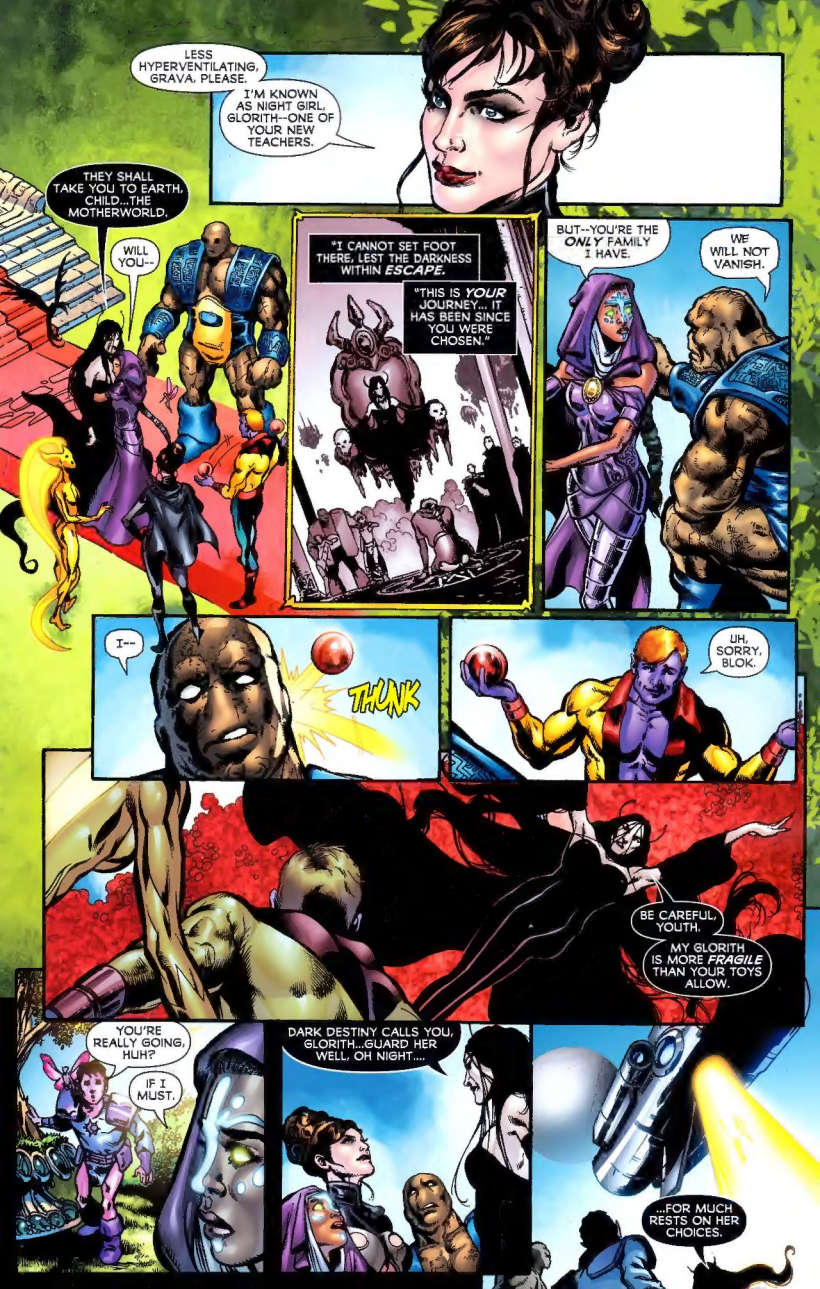
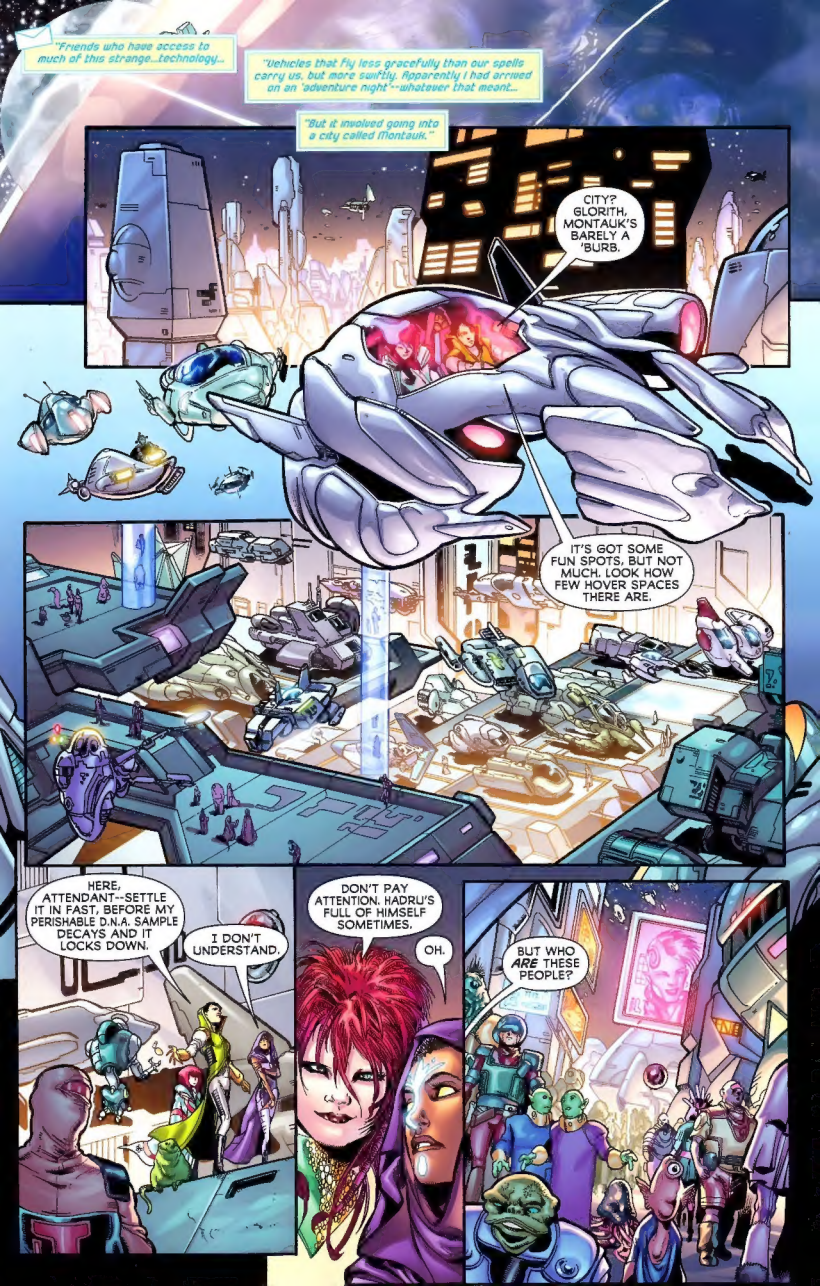
"The strangest day of my life began with a strange shadow crossing our star, sending a MESSAGE to my teacher. They asked permission to land, calling us the Sorcerers' World, and said they were here for ME...
"...to take me to..."
LEGION ACADEMY
THE BLACK WITCH
A.K.A. MYSA NAL
HOMEWORLD: NALTOR
ABILITIES: MANIPULATE MAGICAL ENERGIES
DEAR FRIENDS, ACTUALLY.
EASY, CHILD...THEY ARE FRIENDS.
BLOK
HOMEWORLD: DRYAD
ABILITIES: SUPER-STRENGTH, DURABILITY
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
"First Night"
GLORITH
HOMEWORLD: UNKNOWN
ABILITIES: MANIPULATE MAGICAL ENERGIES
The beginning of a new journey by
PAUL LEVITZ & PHIL JIMENEZ Storytellers ANDY LANNING Inker
SWANDS Letterer HI-FI Colorist JIMENEZ & HI-FI Cover
SEAN RYAN Associate Editor BRIAN CUNNINGHAM Editor

IT IS TIME, CHILD. I HAVE TAUGHT YOU WHAT I CAN.
B-BUT-- I FEEL NO MAGIC FROM THEIR CRAFT. ONLY COLD IRON.
OUR ENERGIES ARE NOT THE ONLY MAGIC IN THE UNIVERSE, GLORITH...COURAGE, WISDOM, POWER...THEY COME IN MANY FORMS.
YOU WILL LEARN AS I DID.
COME...
...LET US GO DOWN TO THEM.
POWER BOY
R.K.A: JEDEDIAH RIKANE
HOMEWORLD: EARTH
ABILITIES: PERSONAL DENSITY CONTROL
NIGHT GIRL
R.K.A: LYDDA JATH
HOMEWORLD: KATHOON
ABILITIES: SUPER-STRENGTH ACTIVATED IN DARKNESS
WHAT COMES, HARLAK?
AN END TO PLAYTIME, SPRITE...
...BUT FOR WHICH OF US?
YOU MUST BE GLORITH...
WE ARE GOING TO BE SO FUSED!


LESS HYPERVENTILATING, GRAVA, PLEASE.
I'M KNOWN AS NIGHT GIRL, GLORITH--ONE OF YOUR NEW TEACHERS.
THEY SHALL TAKE YOU TO EARTH, CHILD...THE MOTHERWORLD.
WILL YOU--
"I CANNOT SET FOOT THERE, LEST THE DARKNESS WITHIN ESCAPE.
"THIS IS YOUR JOURNEY... IT HAS BEEN SINCE YOU WERE CHOSEN."
BUT--YOU'RE THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE.
WE WILL NOT VANISH.
I--
THUNK
UH, SORRY, BLOK.
BE CAREFUL, YOUTH.
MY GLORITH IS MORE FRAGILE THAN YOUR TOYS ALLOW.
YOU'RE REALLY GOING, HUH?
IF I MUST.
DARK DESTINY CALLS YOU, GLORITH...GUARD HER WELL, OH NIGHT....
...FOR MUCH RESTS ON HER CHOICES.

"The amazement of traveling through space, Harlak...the sensations, the motions that I had no words for because my body was at once still and hurtling through the universe...but no less amazing were the beings that surrounded me on arrival...my new friends."
CHEMICAL KID
A.K.A: HADRU JAMIK
HOMEWORLD: PHLON
ABILITIES: CATALYZE CHEMICAL REACTIONS
GRAVITY KID
A.K.A: TEL VOLE
HOMEWORLD: EARTH
ABILITIES: CHANGE PERSONAL GRAVITY OR NEARBY GRAVITY
COMET QUEEN
A.K.A: GRAVA
HOMEWORLD: EXTAL COLONY
ABILITIES: SPACE FLIGHT, COMET GAS EXTRUSION
VARIABLE LAD
A.K.A: OAA TSELDOR
HOMEWORLD: JAQUAA
ABILITIES: DIFFERENT ABILITIES EVIDENCE WITH EACH USE
SMILE FOR THE NEW CLASS HOLO, GLORITH.
DRAGONWING
A.K.A: MARVA PAI
HOMEWORLD: EARTH
ABILITIES: FIREBREATH AND ACID VENOM


"Friends who have access to much of this strange...technology...
"Vehicles that fly less gracefully than our spells carry us, but more swiftly. Apparently I had arrived on an 'adventure night'--whatever that meant...
"But it involved going into a city called Montauk."
CITY? GLORITH, MONTAUK'S BARELY A 'BURB.
IT'S GOT SOME FUN SPOTS, BUT NOT MUCH. LOOK HOW FEW HOVER SPACES THERE ARE.
HERE, ATTENDANT--SETTLE IT IN FAST, BEFORE MY PERISHABLE D.N.A. SAMPLE DECAYS AND IT LOCKS DOWN.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
DON'T PAY ATTENTION. HADRU'S FULL OF HIMSELF SOMETIMES.
OH.
BUT WHO *ARE* THESE PEOPLE?

"So many people, Harlak, so much noise...
"They seem happy, but oblivious to all the distractions that bombard them ceaselessly...until they go into these areas called stores...
"My fellow student Hadru was fascinated by these, and always asked for some item to be delivered to our school, in exchange for which he waved a small magic device, filled with invisible things called credits.
"In between, he spoke of Metropolis--a GREAT CITY with more and better everything...
"...and best of all, THE LEGION."
WOW.
ONE DAY, GLORITH, THAT'LL BE US.
US?
SAVE DREAMS FOR HER SECOND DAY, HADRU. WE ARE YEARS FROM BECOMING LEGIONNAIRES...
...IF EVER.
YOU'RE A DOWNER.
REALIST, RATHER.

"Much has been HIDDEN from me, since I was chosen as a babe to serve the light, but never was it so CONFUSING. The other students have great gifts too, but they declare they will be heroes...or perhaps policemen, whatever those are...and wink, saying rules are for OTHERS...

"I send you this by our secret ways, hoping you will read it soon and help me UNDERSTAND.

"I walk this place by night, my new friends pointing out the ocean as it laps on shores of smooth metal and rough rocks never shaped by nature. Everything feels artificial...and FALSE...

"Even what they call 'MIRRORKINS' which borrow our shapes to offer us clothes as we pass the windows in which they dance.

"Everywhere, this clamor for these credits...

"...or games that glow as bright as a starspell at midnight."

I'M TIRED OF SHOPPING AND PLAYING GAMES.

YOU'RE RIGHT, DRAGONWING...

...IF WE CAN'T GO INTO METROPOLIS, WE MIGHT AS WELL PARTY AT THE ACADEMY.
LET'S PICK UP SOME STUFF.
NOW YOU'RE TALKING.
SAME PLACE AS LAST TIME, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
NICE JOB WARMING UP THE AFTERHOURS LOCK.
IT'S SO MUCH QUIETER IN THERE.
IT'S CLOSED, GLORITH. EXCEPT FOR US.
ONE OF THOSE LITTLE RULES...
...BUT FOR US, IT'S ONLY A GUIDELINE.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
I'M PUTTING IT ALL ON MY DAD'S ACCOUNT...
...LET'S TAKE WHATEVER WE WANT.

THEY'RE COMING BACK IN. THE LITTLE SNEAKS.
I DON'T KNOW IF CHEMICAL KID IS A CON MAN, A CHARMER...OR JUST A CREEP.
HOW ABOUT "YOUNG"?
DUPLICATE GIRL
A.K.A.: LUORNU DURGG
HOMEWORLD : CARGG
ABILITIES : ABLE TO SPLIT INTO MULTIPLE BODIES
GO TO BED, CHUCK.
IF ONE OF YOU IS LOSING SLEEP, I CAN TOO.
BOUNCING BOY
A.K.A.: CHUCK TAINE
HOMEWORLD: EARTH
ABILITIES: SELF-INFLATION AND BOUNCING
HE'S A BAD INFLUENCE.
WE NEED TO TEACH THESE KIDS DISCIPLINE.
TONIGHT?
NEVER TOO SOON.
IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE.
OKAY...
...BUT REMEMBER THEY'RE JUST KIDS.

I REMEMBER.
"AND I'LL GET THEM RIGHT AFTER THE PARTY'S OVER. WHEN THEY'RE SLEEPING IT OFF."
BZZZTTT
UP!
UP!
UP!
UP!
UP!
UP!
GET DRESSED, SCRAMBLE FOR DRILL.
GYM NUMBER FOUR.
NIGHT GIRL'S WAITING.

SWEET SUNRISES, TEACH.
BIT EARLY.
PROBLEMS WON'T HAPPEN WHEN YOU PREFER THEM TO, CHEMICAL KID.
MAKES SENSE.
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU, CLASS. WE'LL KEEP THIS EXERCISE *SIMPLE*...
GET PAST ME, AND GET THE PRETTY RED BALL. AND NO USING YOUR *POWERS* ON ME.

UNLESS SOME OF YOU ARE *WIPED OUT* FROM BREAKING CURFEW LAST NIGHT...
D'UH?
NOT FAIR.
SHE'S *NOT* HAPPY.
RELAX-- I'LL TALK TO HER.
READY? ONE...
TWO...
THREE...
KLIK
WHOA.
CAN'T MAKE IT *TOO* EASY.

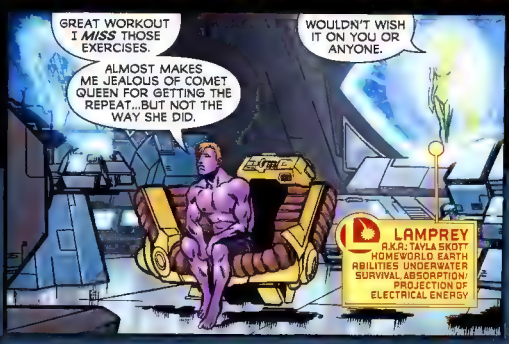
UP TO POPPA, BALL.
A FLOATER? NOPE.
NOT SO FAST, KID.
WHERE TO GO. WHERE TO GO...?
HERE. THIS LOOKS COMFY.
MAYBE A CHANGE WILL HELP.
PERFECT. PRIMITIVE-- BUT A CLIMBER!

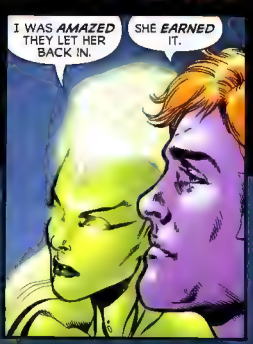
SMOOTH SWITCH, VARIABLE LAD--
--BUT TRY *FASTER*, AND DON'T *ANNOUNCE* YOURSELF.
THE PRETTY RED BALL WAITS FOR *NO ONE*.
DON'T *SNEAK* AT C-SPEED, TEACH--I'VE GOT SOME *GAS* FOR YOU.
AWW, SWEET
NOT EFFECTIVE, THOUGH.
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, DRAGONWING?
TOO STINKING *EARLY* FOR THIS, LADY. CAN'T THINK BEFORE BREAKFAST.

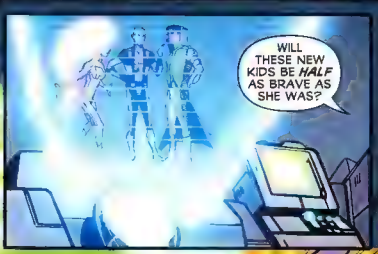
ALL I CAN DO IS *BREATHE...*
CREATIVE... IF A BIT *DESTRUCTIVE...*
I *DIDN'T SAY* YOU COULDN'T DAMAGE THE EQUIPMENT, SO I CAN'T *FOUL* YOU ON THAT.
BUT I CAN SHOVE IT OUT OF THE WAY ONE-HANDED AND HOLD ONTO THE BALL...
...OR I DON'T NEED TO??
INTERESTING.

IS THIS CORRECT?
AM I PERMITTED TO HIT THE BALL AWAY?
ONLY IF YOU CAN, GLORITH.
ON-LY... IFFF...YOUUU... C-ANNN...
ACCELERATING MY OWN METABOLISM MAKES YOU SOUND SO DREARY--
--BUT IT MAKES THIS EASY!
I... DO...N'T...
NO, YOU DON'T.
I DO.
NOT BAD.
IF YOU FORGIVE THE TOTAL LACK OF TEAMWORK.
EXCUSE ME--THIS YOURS, TEACH?
AND I DIDN'T USE MY POWER ON YOU.
I'VE GOT SOME BUNK TIME TO CATCH UP ON.

SPOILED BRAT.
I SHOULD--
NO, LUORNU.
THEY'RE OKAY. THEY'LL MAKE *REAL* LEGIONNAIRES...
...IF THEY CAN LEARN TO WORK *TOGETHER.*


GREAT WORKOUT I *MISS* THOSE EXERCISES.
ALMOST MAKES ME JEALOUS OF COMET QUEEN FOR GETTING THE REPEAT...BUT NOT THE WAY SHE DID.
WOULDN'T WISH IT ON YOU OR ANYONE.
LAMPREY
A.K.A.: TAVLA SKOTT
HOMEWORLD: EARTH
ABILITIES: UNDERWATER SURVIVAL, ABSORPTION/PROJECTION OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY


I WAS *AMAZED* THEY LET HER BACK IN.
SHE *EARNED* IT.


WILL THESE NEW KIDS BE *HALF* AS BRAVE AS SHE WAS?

THINK THEY'LL BE LEGIONNAIRES... AND MORE IMPORTANT, WILL *WE?*
GRADUATION'S SO SOON.
IF NOT, THERE'RE *OTHER* WAYS TO SERVE.

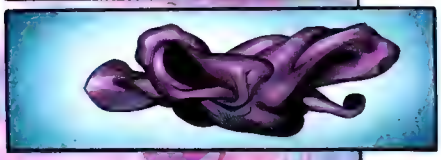
IT'S A BIG UNIVERSE, LAMPREY, WITH LOTS OF PROBLEMS THAT NEED FIXING.
WE CAN GET OUR *SHARE* OF GLORY... SOMEHOW...

"It takes much energy to scribe these words to you, dear Harlak, despite the spells great Mysa placed on our scrolls to attune them, but I miss you so. Everything here CONFUSES me.

"There is insufficient ritual, and not, I fear, enough COURTESY.

"I know so LITTLE of life outside our small world of devout study, and its complex magics, so perhaps I judge my new friends wrongly...

"...but I do not see how I BELONG in their number."



GRAVA--
WAIT!
YOU'RE NOT PARTYING AGAIN! AFTER THE GRIEF WE CAUGHT!
OH, TEL--
DURGO FAKES BEING METEOR METAL, BUT SHE'S REALLY ALL GAS CLOUD.
YOU DON'T WANT ANY SPOTS ON YOUR SHINY RECORD--
URK...
--AND YOU'RE MAD 'CAUSE HADRU BEAT YOU AT PRACTICE.
BYE
SHMPH:
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, TEL?
MONTAUK...
OKAY, NO MORE RUNNING LOW HALFWAY THROUGH THE PARTY--TONIGHT, WE'RE STOCKING UP!
GET EXTRA OF THOSE COOKIES FROM WINATH, TOO!
BREEP
IT'S ON DAD.
REJECTED??

DO YOU THINK DUPLICATE GIRL BLANKED YOU?
NAH--DAD'S HAD AN ACCOUNT HERE FOREVER.
HE'S ONE OF THEIR BEST CUSTOMERS.
THIS IS SO WEIRD.
ATTENTION!
HUH?
YOU HAVE VIOLATED STORE SECURITY POLICIES... PLEASE PRESENT YOUR IDENTITY CHIPS FOR INSPECTION!
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!
NEXT: IT GETS WORSE.

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
ROAD TO
FLASHPOINT
BEGINS IN:
The FLASH #9
GEOFF JOHNS & FRANCIS MANAPUL

I'M GETTING LATE. WHEN'S LAST CALL?
IN CENTRAL CITY? THERE ISN'T ONE.
BIG BELLY BURGER
Tonic
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
CITIZENS! STEP OUT OF THE STREET!

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE FLASH
CASE TWO:
THE ROAD TO FLASHPOINT
PART ONE
Writer: Geoff Johns
Artist: Francis Manapul
Colorist: Brian Buccellato
Letterer: Sal Cipriano
Editors: Adam Schlagman & Eddie Berganza
STRUCK BY A BOLT OF LIGHTNING AND DOUSED IN CHEMICALS, POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE. WITH EVERY STEP HE RUNS, THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER GENERATES AN ENIGMATIC ENERGY CALLED THE SPEED FORCE, ABLE TO BE TAPPED INTO BY OTHERS THROUGHOUT TIME WHO SHARE HIS SENSE OF JUSTICE. TODAY, BARRY ALLEN PROTECTS AND SERVES THE WORLD OVER AS THE
FLASH

BOOOOM
BOOOOM
BOOOOM

OONK

NO MATTER THE COST... I NEED FUEL.
AND I NEED TO FIND BARRY ALLEN.
WHO IS HOT PURSUIT? FIND OUT IN
The FLASH #9
IN STORES FEBRUARY 2011

Last month we announced the return of the letters columns to our books and the response has been overwhelming! We were literally flooded with letters from all over the world. All the editorial groups are busy sorting their mail for the introduction of their various columns next month so I wanted to use this opportunity to say a few things. First of all, I want you to know that we are reading EVERY SINGLE letter that comes in. If you write us we will 100% read what you have to say. And if you pose an interesting question or idea, there is a good chance you will see your letter in print. Keeping this in mind, I want to encourage all of you to keep the letters coming in. It's fun, it's easy, and your voice will be heard. As a special preview I'm going to print and answer some of the very first letters we received. The early bird catches the worm, folks. So take a look at what your fellow comics readers are sending in and then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page and write us immediately. And let me say once again that you guys are the best fans in the world – THANK YOU!

*– **Ian Sattler**, Senior Story Editor DCU*

I think you would agree that "Gotham Central" was one of the finest series DC ever produced. And, as you know, it ended with the tragic downfalls of Crispus Allen and Renee Montoya, who went on to become the Spectre and the Question respectively.

Since they used to be partners and since they are now part of the more fantastic DC universe with their new superhero identities, I think it would be a fantastic idea for them to team up again!

Marvin Choi
Norwalk, CA USA

Pretty interesting idea you've got there, Marvin. We have plans for both characters this year for sure – but if more of you want to see them together, follow Marvin's lead and write us a letter. In the meantime keep an eye out in the streets of Gotham City for all the answers you need.

Hello DC, I am Leandro from Argentina. My question is when does the Static series begin? Are we going to get one this year? I hope so…

Leandro
Cordoba, Argentina

Leandro's was the first international letter we received so we wanted to make sure we answered his question immediately. And speaking of immediately, we're pleased to say that the new ongoing Static series begins in May! Hope that's fast enough for you guys…

I am a comics retailer (reader and collector) and think that the new letters columns are almost as good a news item as the $2.99 rollback. My customers who buy tons of fine DC Comics every year are not the typical message board, twitter or chat people since they are too busy working to buy AND read all of their favorite comics. They and I will appreciate this forum and I will personally push them to actively use it!

Carl Bonasera
Evergreen Park, IL USA

Thanks, Carl! We are so grateful for the support our retailer friends bring us! We'll make sure to keep an extra eye out for any letters from your customers. You can show them your letter in print to prove that it really works!

We need a new Captain Marvel/Marvel Family ongoing. Like, NOW.
Thanks!

Chad Whitley
Angier, NC USA

Sorry, Chad, we're a little confused about what you'd like to see. Kidding! We know there is a lot of support for the Marvel Family out there, and trust us when we say that we do have very big plans for them. Hopefully you got some clue in last month's SHAZAM! special and are aware that you should be checking out this month's issue of TITANS.

To submit a letter go to:
www. dcletterspage.com

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DC Comics
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New York, NY 10019

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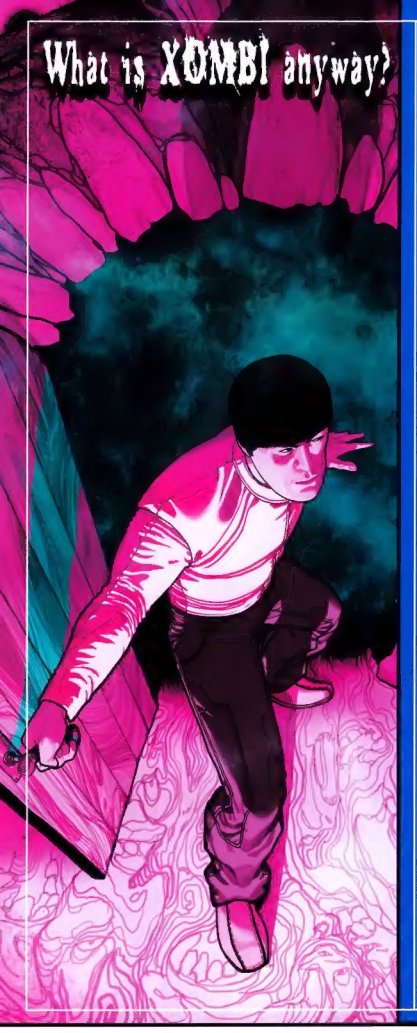

If you're thinking rotting corpses shambling around looking for living bodies to dine on then you'd be wrong, though it's possible those sorts of zombies will show up at some point.

XOMBI centers around David Kim, a medical researcher who was attacked in his laboratory by strange creatures and left for dead. His supernaturally induced mortal injuries were repaired by nanomachines injected into his body. The combination of science and the supernatural has had two consequences: 1. He cannot die. Ever. He can self-heal any wound, any disease, never has to brush his teeth, diet, worry about aging, or use a toilet. The nanomachines in his body process everything and keep him in peak physical condition. This condition brought on by artificial means is what makes him a xombi. 2. He has now become a weirdness magnet. All manner of really strange stuff occurs with him somehow winding up in the center of it.

Both of these conditions provide the fuel that drives XOMBI. While David's powers seem really advantageous on the surface (being in peak physical condition without ever visiting a gym, never worrying about losing your hair or needing a root canal, having your head crushed under the wheels of a bus and simply regenerating!), there are some serious downsides. If David is in the process of regenerating, don't touch him. The nanomachines in his body will most likely devour you as raw material with which to implement the repairs. As the series progresses, the nanomachines will prove far more dangerous.

David's condition as a weirdness magnet is the other driving force in this series, weirdness being the key word here. How weird? Well, there's the Startling Parade, an occult organization commanded by oppressive rod puppets papier-mâchéd out of discarded religious and political tracts; James Church, a model student turned supernatural mass murderer by a college reading assignment gone terribly wrong; the Rustling Husks, homunculi assassins crafted from ghost swarms of angry, frustrated insects driven mad with desperation to get through window glass to the world outside. Those are just some from the first issue.

The weirdness of XOMBI is the most fun aspect to write, and hopefully for you to read. For David Kim it's something he would do anything to be rid of so that he could just go back to being regular pre-nanite-infested David Kim. His struggle to maintain a place in the mundane, ordinary world that we live in while trying to master the bizarre world he now finds himself a part of is one that will lead to some heartwrenching tragedy as the series progresses.

This brings me to the final and most important aspect of what XOMBI is about, and that's the characters. None of the weirdness, creepiness, or tragedy would mean anything if there weren't fully realized characters that you could invest in at the heart of it. I couldn't have a better partner in bringing XOMBI to life than artist **Frazer Irving**. While it's obvious that he's going excel at the weird, creepy stuff, what I really appreciate is his dedication to understanding the characters and their relationships with one another and developing unique performances for each of them. This is where the real magic is, in bringing characters to life, not just resurrecting them.

–John Rozum

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